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STATINTL

The Military in Politics

Cold-War Seminars Aim to Alert Americans to Communist Danger

First of Three Articles

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Some time ago, Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) sent a memorandum to the Pentagon claiming that too many military officers are meddling in American domestic politics under the guise of anti-communism. Somebody ought to stop it, he said.

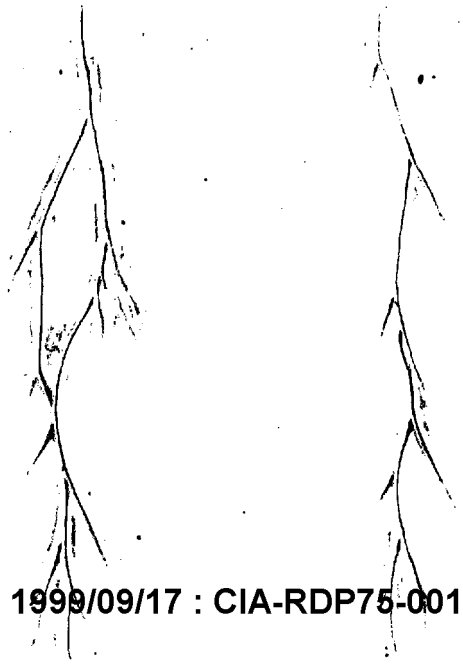
When the content of this memo became known, Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S. C.) called it a "dastardly attempt" to intimidate American military officers. The military, he said, has a duty to tell the public what it knows about communism.

This exchange was brought about by a series of "cold war seminars" which the military has been sponsoring across the nation.

Fulbright took a look at a dozen of these and concluded:

"The content no doubt has varied from program to program, but running through all of them is a central theme that the primary, if not exclusive, danger to this country is internal Communist infiltration. Past and current international difficulties are often attributed to this, or ascribed to 'softness,' 'sell-outs,' 'appeasements,' etc. Radical right-wing speakers dominate the programs.

"The thesis of the nature of the Communist threat often is developed by equating social legislation with socialism, and the latter with communism. Much of the Administration's domestic legislative program, including continuation of the graduated income tax, expansion of Social Security (particularly medical care under Social Security), Federal aid to education, etc.,



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